

COTTON MARKER DATABASE**Jodi Scheffler and Brian Scheffler****USDA-ARS****Stoneville, MS****Anna Blenda and Dorrie Main****Clemson University****Clemson, SC****John Yu****USDA-ARS****College Station, TX****Roy Cantrell****Cotton Incorporated****Cary, NC**

To address the lack of available molecular markers for cotton, Cotton Incorporated has spearheaded an initiative to create the Cotton Microsatellite Database (CMD), and several groups are actively involved in projects to generate, screen and map cotton molecular markers. CMD is a centralized database that is easily accessible online at www.mainlab.clemson.edu/cmd and provides a number of different resources. The database is being developed and maintained by a group at the Clemson University Genomics Institute. The CMD utilizes a standard set of cotton cultivars and wild species to evaluate the markers, and the DNA for screening is supplied by the ARS group at College Station, Texas. Currently the database contains marker data for BNL (375), JESPR (127) and CIR (204) Simple Sequence Repeat (SSR) markers. This information was provided by the ARS scientists at Stoneville, Mississippi, and additional data is forthcoming from other research groups and private companies in the United States and abroad. The maps and markers contained in the database will facilitate the development of DNA based tools to identify important agronomic traits and facilitate selection for these traits.